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(54) Title: SHORT INTERFERING RNAs HAVING A HAIRPIN STRUCTURE CONTAINING A NON-NUCLEOTIDE LOOP

(57) Abstract: This invention provides a short interfering hairpin RNA having the structure X_1 -L- X_2 , wherein X_1 and X_2 are nucleotide sequences having sufficient complementarity to one another to form a double-stranded stem hybrid and L is a loop region comprising a non-nucleotide linker molecule, wherein at least a portion of one of the nucleotide sequences located within the double-stranded stem is complementary to a sequence of said target RNA.